

## MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY.

## THE CAUSES OF THE PRESENT RUMOR.

Stated by an Ex-Student--Rejected Professors as Martyrs--Let the People Elect the Trustees.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE APPEAL.

COLDWATER, MISS., July 15.--For some months back there has been a general opinion that there is something wrong with the University of the State. There have been some things to warrant this report, but there has never been anything to justify the malicious statements of certain parties who are ignorant of the needs of the school as unqualified judges of the wants and qualifications of those whom they accuse. There have been at several times newspaper reports of certain professors and of the workings of the university from some who profess to be zealous of its interests, when in fact they were merely the result of personal prejudice and ignorant of the true cause of the discontent. These reports have been too much accredited by the people of Mississippi, who took or granted that such writers were informed and responsible. Even such eminent men as compose the honorable Board of Trustees seem to have lent a too ready ear to these as well as to certain persons who met them personally, and through bias or mistaken zeal, had more influence than their knowledge or ability warranted. Thus, there was a spread over the State the idea that "something must be done," and so the board came, resolved on doing something. This board is composed of the ablest men in the State, but the best men will sleep, and it is too true that these men have been taking a Rip Van Winkle snooze of about ten years. But the mutterings of the storm waked them up and hearing the clamor that "something must be done," they began to stir like they fairly got their eyes open.

Urged by the vulgar cry of a few clamorous seniors, they struck blindly about until they had struck out some of the very best professors in the faculty, men whose places cannot be supplied.

The question is asked now who runs the university? The State? No. The Legislature? No. The trustees? No. The faculty? There never was a bigger mistake. It is a number of clamorous busy bodies who have succeeded in getting an article in the newspapers or have got a hearing with the trustees, and they then yell "Turn the rascals out." A few of these are students, but invariably of the lower classes, subfreshman, freshman, and one or two sophomores. With an ambitious bitterness that makes the species their object in to tear down; they prefer to reign in hell than to rule in heaven. For instance, just before commencement one of the students approached another who has the honor of holding up the drooping tail of the subfreshman class, and accosted him somewhat thus: "Well, M--are you going back next year?" "No," replied the gentleman of the rear guard, "with all the grace of his profession; 'not unless there's a change in the faculty.'" Now this from a prep, whose opinion would not attract enough attention to be held in contempt there where he is known. Well, in a newspaper, have all the weight of that of a philosopher.

This is the way it has been. The loudest voice is listened to and some of the best men and ablest instructors in the university, men whose superior are not to be found in any other university because something must be done. Thus the interests of the school and those of the State are sacrificed to appease the fury of this diminutive barking Cerberus. Besides these mentioned there is another class of grumbler, the dotting mothers who complain of the professors, because their hopeful sons didn't make the rise. I have known such who would buttonhole every man of the board and pour into his ear the tale of their wrongs with as much zest and with some have as much influence as if their sons had actually been men of brains.

Of course the trustees are not wholly responsible for these ill reports and not wholly for the weight they have had, for they must listen to some one, as they are not themselves attending any lectures, recitations, etc., in person. It unfortunately occurred that the first they heard and the hardest they heard was from such unscientific sources.

It is not my business to dictate to that honorable body what they shall do or to whom they shall listen, but I would think, if it be not improper for one of the number to say it, that the voice of the alumni who have been with these professors and from their experience of them are qualified to judge of their ability as teachers, and no one could feel a deeper interest in the university, should be heard in their deliberations and weighed in their councils. There has been such expressions from a number of them, some in your columns, but enough cannot be said in favor of some of these men, so prudent in scholarship, so able in instruction and so worthy in their Christian character. Too much cannot be said in commendation of the unjust attacks that have been made upon their names, and which it is believed had some weight in the wrong that was done them in June.

Then, there is hope, or possibility, of improving matters by a change? These men have been tried, and no competent authority can pronounce them anything less than a success, but there is certainly a chance, and, judging from some past experience, a great probability of getting inferior men to succeed them. One of the board remarked recently that men who had come highly recommended had fallen short of expectation. It is not slightly amusing to see the way application have poured in from every quarter, from men who would hide their diminutive heads before the men they seek to replace and yet they come recommended. If they had as much brains as brains they might hope to win distinction.

It is impossible to take by name these professors who have been tried without any assignable cause deprived of their chairs and do justice to their abilities. I could not extol their merits because my mind could not reach the point they have won and maintained by their talents and toil. One of these is Gen. C. W. Sears, who has grown old in the service, with his mental vigor never a whit impaired. Beyond the consideration of the distinguished service he rendered and the loss he sustained for our people--for he begs nothing now for charity or reward for the past--he has that peculiar tact of interesting while he instructs, which makes him so much admired and respected by every student in the university. Dr. Little's scholarly attainments, broad culture and liberal methods, combined with general information and familiarity with modern scientific knowledge, have given

him a facility in the lecture room and a reputation abroad which have made him the peer of the most eminent in his department.

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Dr. Johnson is a scholar whose constant and systematic study and experience in teaching of English has acquired a proficiency beyond any praise that has been given him, and a reputation which places him with the names of the best English scholars of America and England.

His natural capacity and arduous energy have made his department the place has always inspired the students under him with an interest and attachment to the work so essential to their success, at the same time making it a course one of the most thorough and complete in the university. His high regard for the university and the place has become welded to those of the school, which has engaged his mind at attention and caused him to decline but recently a responsible position to tender him in his native State. The hope of securing his resignation has even excited the hearty support of the alumni. Dr. Quince has become so much a fixture, or rather a necessary fixture, of the university that it is hard to think of it without him. His faithful and effective service for a quarter of a century is sufficient to make him an object of devoted attachment to a generation of men who have been made Latin scholars by his instruction and noble men by his influence and worthy example. I have known him intimately for four years, and can say that no one ever knew a warmer type of Christian manhood or one more constant in his professional duties. Being a member of the class of 1866 and knowing these men for the last four years, both personally and in the classroom, I am prepared to give ample reasons for the evidence of what is here said. I only regret that the very best professors in the faculty, men whose places cannot be supplied.

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## FORTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

## THE PRESIDENT'S PENSION VETOES IN THE HOUSE.

The River and Harbor Bill Passed the Senate After Being Scalded 25 per Cent.

WASHINGTON, July 16.--The House resumed the consideration of the conference report in the legislative appropriation bill and it was agreed to, thus disposing of so many of the amendments in dispute as were agreed to by the conference committee.

Mr. Cannon (Ill.), moved that the House recede from its disagreement to the Senate amendment providing for an increase of the clerical force of the Civil Service Commission.

Agreed to. Yes, 123; nays, 131. Mr. Matson (Ind.), called up the report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions on the message of the President vetoing the bill pensioning Capt. W. T. Tiler, and upon his statement that the case had been reopened in the Pension Office, consideration of the report was postponed until next session.

Mr. Matson then called up the veto message on the bill granting a pension to Elizabeth Loe.

On motion, the question of consideration was postponed, desiring that the House should take up the first appropriation bill, but by a vote of 93 to 73 the House determined to consider the pension case.

In this case the majority of the committee recommended that the bill be not passed, the minority report of the bill should not pass.

The speaker announced that the question was upon the passage of the bill on the veto, and it was decided by a vote of 116 to 124, the yeas being 116 and the nays 124.

The following Democrats voted to pass the bill over the veto: Messrs. Cullen, Foran, Frederick, Giddes, Maybury, Tarnsey, Weaver (La.), Wolford and Worthington.

Mr. Belmont (N. Y.), from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported a resolution, which was adopted, requesting the President to furnish the House with all correspondence, not heretofore made public, between the Government and the United States and the Republic of Nicaragua, and relating to the treaty and other rights of the bordering Republic.

The next message called up was that upon the bill pensioning Catharine McCarthy.

On this question, also, the majority of the Committee on Invalid Pensions recommended the passage of the bill, while the minority recommended the vetoing of the veto of the President.

In this, as in the previous case, the speaker pro tempore, Mr. Mills (Tex.), recognized Mr. Matson (Ind.), who had signed his minority report to call the previous question. Against the Republican majority, Mr. Matson, contending that the Chair should have recognized one of the members who had signed the majority report to control the floor instead of recognizing a member who held the negative side of the question and giving him the power to shut off debate.

Mr. Cutcheon (Mich.) rose to a parliamentary inquiry as to the reason which had impelled the speaker to recognize Mr. Matson.

The speaker's problem, stated that he had recognized Mr. Matson, because, as chairman of the Committee on Invalid Pensions, he had charge of pension matters on the floor. He then proceeded to put the question on the demand for the previous question, when he was interrupted by Mr. Cutcheon with a parliamentary inquiry.

The speaker stated that the gentleman was out of order unless he desired to take an appeal from the decision.

"Well, I appeal," said Mr. Cutcheon. Being questioned as to what his decision was, the speaker replied that the majority, as organized on the floor, had the right to bring in and take care of pension measures.

Mr. Reed (Me.)--What party does the Chair refer to?

The speaker's problem--The majority party.

Mr. Reed--Political party?

The speaker's problem--Majority party.

Mr. Reed (persistently)--Political party?

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Joseph Romeis. In this case the Committee on Invalid Pensions is unanimously of opinion that the bill should be passed over the veto.

The bill was passed over the veto--yes 175, nays 28.

The House then took a recess until 8 o'clock p.m., the evening session to be for the consideration of pension bills.

The Senate.

After the passage of a number of pension bills, the Senate resumed consideration of the river and harbor bill.

Sensor Veto called attention to a sentence in Senator Conner's speech yesterday which he had not heard and which appeared to be aimed at the Senator from Texas (Coke) and himself. It was to the effect that two members of the Committee on Commerce had